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319 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
P.O. Box 40600
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Our schools should be — and can be — the best in the nation. How can we improve the education our children receive, make the schools safer, ensure that all students are ready to learn and that every graduate is ready to earn?

- ___ Raise standards for new teachers, and match them with the best veteran teachers as mentors.
- ___ Raise salaries and hire only the best and brightest teachers.
- ___ Help schools work more closely with businesses to prepare students for work.
- ___ Put students in less-crowded classrooms, especially in early grades.
- ___ Start merit or performance pay for teachers.

- Expand charter schools and try vouchers.
- Expand the Promise Scholarship program so that it pays full tuition and includes more middle-class students.
- Focus on preventing problems with aggression and violence at the earliest age, rather than spending more money on the aftermath of crime.

Your ideas: _____

The Strong Schools Task Force picked three issues to focus on this session: quality teaching; smaller, safer schools; and more family and community involvement in schools. Do you have any comments or suggestions about these issues?

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Representative
Mark Miloscia

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2000 Session Survey

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- State Government (vice chair)
- Capital Budget
- Economic Development, Housing and Trade
- LEAP
- Alternative Public Works
- DNA

Now that Initiative 695 has passed, the Legislature has tough choices to make. The decisions we make this session will change the course of government for years to come.

I strongly believe that we should take this chance to make government more accountable – to enact bold reforms to make state services better, faster and cheaper. It's a chance to reshape government and straighten out the mess.

I'd like to hear what you think. This survey is my chance to hear directly from the citizens, not the special interests and lobbyists.

I'm not satisfied with the status quo. We shouldn't be afraid of bold ideas that might upset certain factions. Making big improvements in the way government works will take big reforms.

Inside, you'll get a chance to speak out on what direction you think the state should take. Which way we should go on state services, tax reform, and on other important issues before the Legislature such as the Patients' Bill of Rights.

I hope you take this chance to voice your opinions, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mark Milburn

MARK MILOSCIA
State Representative
30th District

TOWN HALL MEETING

Please join me for an old-fashioned town hall meeting to discuss ways we can reform government. I'd like to hear what you think.

***When: Thursday, February 24
from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.***

**Where: Federal Way Regional Library 34200
First Way S.**

For more information, contact my office. Hope to see you there.

The budget and I-695

I-695 requires budget cuts – the question is where. City and county services such as police and public health nurses? Mass transit and highway projects? Or should those services be spared with cuts made in state services?

The Legislature will be looking at a lot of different ideas, and this problem might not be fixed until the next session, when the new two-year budget for the state is written. But there are plans to patch the problem in the short-term.

Protect local services

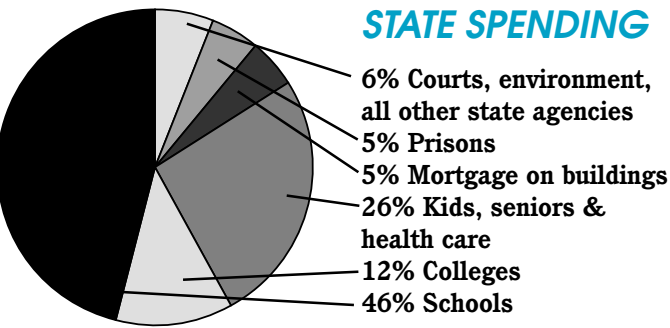
- Gov. Gary Locke has proposed a budget that protects local government from deep cuts after the passage of I-695.
- If the Legislature tries to protect local services, which would you divert funds to save? *(Please rank the list 1 to 6, with 1 being the first area to help.)*
- Police and emergency services
 - Mass transit
 - Public health
 - Other city services
 - Use part of the state's reserves
 - Let local governments make decisions about dealing with cuts
- Comments: _____

Reduce services to pay for transportation

- If state services are cut, where should those reductions be made? *(Please rank the list 1 to 8, with 1 being the first place to cut.)*
- Prisons
 - Colleges
 - Schools
 - Health care
 - Children’s services
 - Seniors/disabled services
 - Courts, environment, all other small agencies
 - Across-the-board cuts
- Comments: _____

Reform

- After I-695, how should the state change to provide services better, faster and cheaper? Which reforms are needed to reshape government? *(Please mark top three choices)*
- Reduce the influence of big money and clean up politics with campaign finance reform.
 - Cut red tape, simplify laws and translate all the laws, rules and codes into plain English
 - Increase incentives for state workers and managers to find creative ways of saving money.
 - Form a permanent commission of citizens that would use outside experts in efficiency to find ways for state agencies to do things better, faster and cheaper.
 - Move away from paperwork and toward electronic or Web-based documents. Make all state forms and permits available on the Web.
 - Audit state agencies not just to make sure they’re following rules but for performance. Are they getting better each year at serving their customers, the citizens?



Better, faster & cheaper

The state should strive to give citizens the best customer service possible, in the quickest manner and at the lowest cost.

Is that aiming high? Sure. But good enough just isn’t good enough.

There are a few simple ideas that could make a big difference in the way state agencies deal with citizens.

The phone – When most folks deal with a state agency, it’s by picking up the phone. However, no citizen wants to spend time dealing with voice mail or having to

Taxes

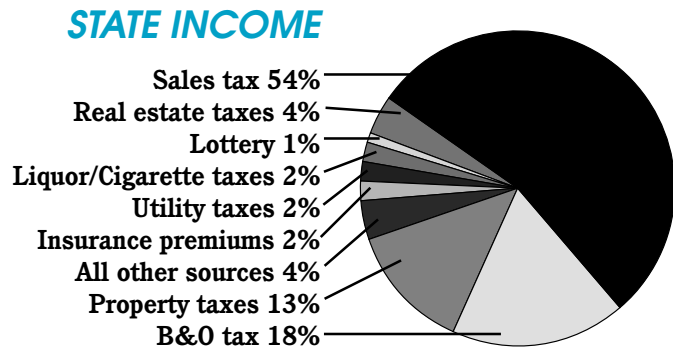
- A national watchdog group, Citizens for Tax Justice, singled out Washington state as having the most unfair tax system in the nation. Our tax system is regressive — the middle-class and working poor get taxed more than the rich — because it relies so much on the sales tax and other taxes that are hard on working people.
- How can we fix the tax system to be fairer to everyday families and seniors?
- Here are some ideas being talked about. *(Please rank the list from 1-6)*
- Property tax: Give middle-class homeowners and seniors a break of about \$200 a person on their state property taxes
 - Sales tax break — Citizens in states with income taxes can deduct those from their federal taxes. We used to be able to deduct the sales taxes we paid, and restoring this break is only fair.
 - Gas tax: Let the gas tax pay for more of the costs of highways and mass transit.
 - Schools: Free up millions sitting in a reserve fund to go toward building schools. A side benefit: lowering the local property tax burden on homeowners.
 - No tax cuts this year. Invest more money into reducing traffic congestion instead.
 - Lower the unemployment tax for businesses.

call three or four different people to get answers.

■ **One number:** One idea is to create one toll-free number that citizens could call -- or website -- whenever they need information or help from a state agency. One-stop shopping so you get transferred to the right department on your first call.

■ **Real people:** Nothing is more annoying than waiting on hold or getting voice mail. Citizens want a real person on the line who can answer their questions.

■ **Flexibility** – There’s a lot of ancient rules and regulations that tie the hands of state workers. Reforming those



Families

- Nothing is more important than family. You deserve to feel secure about health care and safe from crime.
- Ideas** *(mark top two choices)*
- A strong Patients’ Bill of Rights to make sure families are treated fairly and honestly by insurance companies.
 - Improving the child-care system and giving middle-class families access to programs like Head Start.
 - Helping schools and communities set up out-of school activities for all students to make sure the time between the school bell and dinner bell is productive, not idle and destructive.
 - Focus on violence prevention and intervention efforts for youth rather than waiting until it’s too late.
 - Pass laws to protect your privacy, especially your medical and financial records.
- Your ideas: _____

rules could free up state employees to give citizens better service at a lower price.

■ **Bring services closer to citizens** by decentralizing state agencies.

■ **Allow state agencies to contract with private businesses** when that makes sense, and allow state workers to bid on those contracts if they can provide those services at a better deal for taxpayers.

■ **In exchange for the contracting out,** give state workers the ability to collectively bargain on wages and working conditions similar to all local governments.